Aug 2 Febr 3d

Aug Mark Matagorda Penins., Texas—

10th Jan., 1864.

Dear Sir,

Thus far I have progressed in my proposed tour, but I have been able to effect much less than I had hoped in consequence of the severe cold of the winter, which, for continued duration and severity has been scarcely unparalleled all along this coast. I left N. Orleans on the 3d and the thermr had fallen on the night before & after Jan 1st to 22 and 18. "in other" I have been almost continually blowing since the night of the 4th and after a long and tempestuous passage I found ice from salt water in considerable quantities on the wharves & on the bows of a stationary vessel an inch at least & inch in length. I ramble about the sterile sands within the lines of the army stationed here in my own coat finding scarcely any thing but dried up grasses worth gathering. There are but three shrubs that I have met with on the Penins. one of which, is called "wild sage". It is a stalked fruit like an Euphorbia & a hoary leaf which I enclose. Is this the "wild sage" so abundant in the deserts of the west?

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The other two are ~~saffrutiose~~ Enothera, or at least of that order, and still frequently ~~invade~~ invade all the cold mar thin bays. 2 ~~and~~ Sint? I have nothing without upon Texan plants. I ~~shall~~ hope to find by passing on to the extreme southwestern limit of our territory, viz. the mouth of the Rio Grande in 26° to get ~~by on the~~ beyond the limits of frost, but I have now little hope of it. I shall however be able to find passage readily from that point to Cuba or possibly Key West, for I do not intend to go home without seeing some thing of subtropical vegetation. I shall not probably reach Uxbridge, Mass. (my address) before the end of February. I enclose a few specimens and fragments, such as the dimensions of a letter envelope will receive, in the hope of learning from you on my return, the names of such as you may readily recognise, if you will accord me that favor. They are all from N. Orleans except those designated, & I think some are not included in Wood's last edition.

No 1 grows in tufts about N.O. It is very tough, being almost impossible to pull up. No 2 is common along up the river. No 3, not in flower, struts of N.O. No 4, (cryptogamic?) is entirely floating on stagnant water & sends off lateral shoots. No 5, also a fl. struts of N.O. Nos. 6—9 also struts of N.O. No 10, Euphorbia, a variety of pavements exposed to the sun. No 11 wild sage & No 12 grows on the sand, having a pink colored root & spreading out long ~~subterranean~~ shed prostate succulent, prostrate shoots of the size of the little finger, from which issue at intervals stems bearing leaves 6 to 8 inches high. No sign of fruit. I measured one shoot which reached 66 feet. Take it to be annual. The root is tasteless,—I think not milky. I presume it is annual.

We start in the morning for Aransas pass & Pt. Isabel.

Very respectfully, Yours— J. W. Robbins

GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec'd Febr 7th
Ans Feb 9

Uxbridge, Mass., 5th Feb., 1866

Dr. Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

Your letter was most welcome and particularly opportune, for, having learned from Prof. Gray that you were paying special attention to the Juncí, I had determined to send you what few I had from L. Superior for identification, together with a few species of Eleocharis, which genus I have not the means for studying well. The fact is I am associated with a Prof. Porter of Pennsylvania in getting up a more extended catalogue of the plants of L. Superior and it must now soon be got in readiness for publication and I wish to have my portion as nearly accurate as possible.

I send by the same mail by which this goes the plants above alluded to including all the Juncí except J. Balticus which I found & I think some of them are repeated. One, I believe, e.g. J. filiformis and another like it except perhaps in the length of the beaks, I think Dr. G. called J. tenuis. I am sorry I had no better fortune with

the genus at the lake. You see I have attached printed numbers to the specimens. Nothing according to the letter of the P.O. regulations must be in writing in ~~not~~ this class of postage matter, but I have sent and received the numbers written in pencil in safety.

I should like to know from good authority whether it would be allowed.

I hope you will be able to make out the few imperfect bits of scirpus which follow the Juncoi without too much trouble, & return the names. My duplicates are somewhat both of them & the Juncoi, and of some, as of No 14 (perhaps only E. acicularis) I have no other from the lake & of Nos 10 & 11 I have scarce any fruit, so that, if you please, you can return them in the letter. I send also three Spargania & a Sagittaria from L. Sup. in an imperfect state. Nos 17 & 18 may the same, but I thot. it possible that the latter from its shorter stigma might be a branching S. simplex. The three Sagittaria, poor as they are, are my only lake Sparganium. I have fallen upon a Potamus in my search for sagittaria, from this town.

Sparg.

20 miles from tide water respecting which I am
in doubt. It appears to me it can scarcely be the
the D. grandiflorum of Mukt. tho' allied to it, for it
is always straight & erect as you see.

No 22 is a Sagittaria from this town with leaves
sometimes floating & narrow linear. I do not
readily find the fruit.

No 21 is a form wh. I collected in Niagara
river. It is unusual to me.

No 19. seems like S. heterophylla but it has obtuse
beaks & does not agree in that respect with Pursh.
Perhaps it is your var. heterophylla.

I believe I sent you No 23 before from another
locality. I know no means of distinguishing
the species of this genus. I found none my-
self at the lake by Prof. Porter found at the Sault
St Marie where I did not stop the true Scouler's variety.

You speak of having written me two letters.
If so, I ought to have replied; but it is my impres-
sion that I read a line from you when I
sent the plants by Mr. Smith speaking of
some of them & then waited to hear your opinion
in relation to some of the others and thus
failed to write at all. I remember that I

particularly wished to hear (as I still do)
whether you had decided what was the Trillium
that I left with you from L. Sup^{r} with the
pedunole always inclined below the leaves
but straight and of good length. I think you
are likely to have decided on receiving my
specimens of T. cernuum from this town
that it is not that species with its flower
always closely rolled up under the leaves.

I sent also a curious burdock and forget what
else: but I care for nothing just now but
L. Sup^{r} plants. I have been closely stud-
ying upon them for more than two months
& find I could spend much more time upon
them but to much greater advantage if I
had a good collection of plants authentically
named for comparison. If you have par-
ticularly examined any of these genera below
& would be willing to render me some assistance
in them I would gratefully acknowledge the
favor. I have difficulties with Salix, Vaccin-
ium, Poa, Carex & between the Nasturtiums & amphibium
& N. palustre. Do you think the ovate fruited,
erect spikes usually hirsute is identical with
the nearly glabrous long podded N. palustre?
What do you think of the Symphoricarpos from
the lake I left with you R.

I am afraid that Ashridge is not prolific in rare Fungi, but I intend to gamble elsewhere besides here next summer and will be most happy to do all I can in aid of your undertaking. I want particularly that you should depend upon me & no one else to prepare for you unlimited quantities of the Fungus militaris. (What a pity it did not take its name from its beautiful green flowering) look'd I will try after leaving S. Superior to look over all my N. England collections for you & perhaps send you another package. The trouble is I shall hardly know what will be rare. But I must close to be in time for the mail —

Yours very truly

James M. Robbins.

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Rec'd Apr 20th
Ans — 30

Wabridge, Mass., 16th, April, 1866.

Doct. Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

If I have delayed, I have by no means forgotten that I have not yet thanked you for the favor of looking over the small package of plants that I sent you some time ago. Of course I could, from requests, have been so well satisfied with the nomenclature of the plants of some of the genera and am consequently under greater obligations to you.

A remark, in a letter of yours to Dr. Gray, expresses a doubt whether I might be "reliable" in the matter of preparing specimens of Yucceæ militaris in furtherance of your enterprise. I recollect of preceding, in my last letter to you, a paragraph to this effect; that I wished you to depend on me and no one else to collect any desired quantity of it for you. How much have you done for me:- you devoted time to me in looking over my L. sup. plants, you gave me some 20 or more plants entirely new, you looked over and gave me the names of some Texan plant, & have since examined two other packages for me,- all without

trifling return. I think you could not have recollected the positive character of my promise, for failure, on my part, would involve not only a gross breach of my word, in a matter of importance to you, but a still worse dereliction, — that of ingratitude, both crimes that I have ever held in abhorrence. And, besides, I was glad of the opportunity afforded me to furnish botanists thro' you with a plant or a part a state of it which no one else, to my knowledge could furnish. I cannot make myself more reliable by another promise more strongly worded than that already given, and I will only answer to that the proviso that my health remains and that you will indicate to me the number and extreme length of the specimens you would have me prepare. The leaves must be first gathered. They reach their extreme length, I think, in June, and decay, to a considerable extent, before the period of flowering, as do the vegetative capillary leaves of Heloechoris Robbinsii. Will you want full length flowering and fruiting specimens gathered afterwards or only a panicle or longer branch of the latter? I cannot confidently answer some of your questions in regard to the habits &c. of the plant until I observe again, the coming season,

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[illegible] Pl. [illegible] Sino Hewardia

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

except the flowering heads.

I request to see other specimens of Jussieua

from here, I cannot yet take time to look over

my grasses to find them, but think they are in

small number and none rare. I hope I shall get

thro' my pending task with the islands of L. Sup.

in time to collect them & my other Minnesota spe-

cies and send them before the Jussieua season are over.

I am very reluctant to bring related species

[illegible] of L. Sup. (by Dr. Torrey kindly) adjudi-

cated as he chooses to do it, but in doubtful

species it may not have been the distinguishing

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of Michigan (see Wood's Class Book, ed. 2d) and were [illegible]

[illegible] perhaps had a third species, because it did not fit the

two in the manner I have described it. Wood

[illegible] must look at the dried plants again. A specimen has,

which is not the Adscendens I am sure, but in flower.

I will watch closely. We have also here a small form

of Hypericum with petals reddish without. white. Pl.

[illegible] specimen [illegible] specimen [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] saw these and I am entirely [illegible] that [illegible]

[illegible] quite distinct from D. rubra. It occurs in quite [illegible]

[illegible] these. If [illegible] the hybridists will be almost

[illegible], contrary to the common idea, then should cancel that

the use of the name of species should have [illegible]

with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] unreasonable. So with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in

different towns occupies [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] D. hastula & D. verticillata, &

D. mon loto it is a hybrid between [illegible] Mr. James, the botanist of Utica,

says it is highly improbable. Mr. James, the botanist of Utica,

tells me that the D. biliosphylla is found [illegible]

[illegible] plenty on Delaware. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

Neuli ortiem il a true nyorio ventei il vhaat vpeemoinu

do were require the flowers?

Yours truly,

Geo. Engelmann.

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Rec'd May 12th
Ans'd May 19

Uxbridge, Mass., 8th May, 1866.

Dr. George Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

Some three days since I took a walk to one of our rivers to see whether the Juncus militaris was starting and was surprised to find what progress it had already made;- its leaves being already 6-8 inches in length and the Pear tree but just beginning to bloom. I think as the Juncus protects vegetation can so early have reached so great a length. I think I may have told you in my last letter some weeks ago, and which I hope came to hand, that specimens with the leaves in perfection would probably have to be gathered in June.

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I wrote from a general recollection that the leaves were considerably in advance of the flowers; — but now think that it will perhaps be but gathered before the end of this month. It is needless to say again that it will give me great pleasure to collect and prepare for you any number of specimens in any but manner. I hope you have not abandoned your proposed entrprise and that you will very soon indicate to me the number of specimens you would like and their extreme length also whether you would wish full length specimens of the plant both in flower and fruit or only a panicle or portion of a panicle of one or the other. I suspect leaves are better when the plant is in flower. I believe I said I found the plant in slow flowing rivers. This remark without qualification would mislead. I find that it does not flourish at all in the more sluggish parts of our large streams, but that it completely

carpet the bottoms of some of the mountain
portions and especially of the flumes
of our manufactories, where it becomes a
nuisance that it is necessary to remove.
It is really a beautiful sight to see it's long
capillary leaves undulating in such many
with the rapid current two to four feet
beneath the surface. It continues to be to me
an unexplained mystery that Prof. Gray should
have found it in swamps, while I think I
have never seen it even in ponds.

I spent the whole botanical season
of 1824 in travelling over all the N. England
states except Mass. exclusively for botanical
purposes. I omitted to collect nothing during
my various journies that looked at all
strange or uncommon. I will look thro'
all my packages made that season and
some others and note the facts that may
by a possibility be rare to you and com-
municate the result by the first of July,
if you still intend to prosecute your
researches upon that genus.

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As I learned from the number of the "Transactions" with which you obligingly furnished me that you had made a special study of the genus Gentiana, I take the opportunity to endorse for your opinion the three plants of that genus which I gathered at different times at L. Sup.r. They may be all of one species,—but the large specimen, which I did not observe to have flowers at all bluish when gathered, besides some other differences, was found in flower later in an open marsh than the blue flowered one, in a state past flowering, was in a shadowy swamp. The latter specimen, being my only one with blue flowers from the Lake, I should like return for reference. The copper Herbarium fragment can be thrown away if you think it identical with either of the others.

Hoping to hear from you in good season to commence with the Fungi and again expressing my sense of obligation to you.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

Your obt. servant,

James W. Robbins

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Rec'd June 23d
Ans July 1

Mr. Sullivant.

Dear Sir

About a month ago I was favored by the receipt of a letter from you containing some remarks and enquiries in regard to Junci militares and communicated upon my L. Superiori Genuini. The number containing the first part of your monograph which I shall hereafter juxtapose my text book, took me on its arrival entirely by surprise, for I had supposed that it would not be completed until after the Junci drawn had passed. I have looked through all my hundreds of plants gathered during the season ~~season~~ I admit ~~reluctantly~~ in traveling through N. England exclusively for botanical exploration and am rather mortified to find no more than the two species enclosed that are not either common or well known. There are a number of these as trifidus, acuminatus, tenuis, diabot. bufonius, filif. &c. which I need not send. If I had known the genus better, the number would doubtless have been increased. Please give the names.

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Linnaeus marked C. i, I think, commonly Ste[illegible]
Iowa Spinosa. The other I believe I
have only found at Minnaski Falls near
Burlington Vt in a limestone locality.

Scientific. I wished in writing again
to you to be able to say that I had prepared your
full number of leaf specimens. They remain
in good condition longer than I had anticipated. I gathered the last lot now a week
ago, one leaf was missing & [illegible]. None of the
others had then reached a foot in length.
The leaves will, I think, now die pretty rapidly
& the fructification is becoming developed.
I cannot get answers your questions with
certainty. Your fig. of S. mil. represents it
exactly as to that time; — i.e. the stem is
developed at the end of the same branch of the rhizoma that has already developed several pairs
of leaves. I suppose (and will in the fall
observe in order to prove or disprove the fact) that
shoots are sent out after the scars on which
the leaf buds of the following year are formed, to
remain dormant until early spring. I think

thirdfor that you'd call that the leaves ~~away~~ spring from the bases of the dagged stems may not be correct, ~~for~~ however the laterals of leaves are many times more numerous than the stems.

I have made many sects with something of a rhizoma and ~~some~~ young stem. I suppose this will be as well as to have much of a rhizoma with the dead sted stems which would be much less manageable.

I shall mid directions in regard to the transmission of the specimens to you. I send and from this office by mail less than 4 lbs at the lowest rates of transient matter but possibly not of a size as large as you mention, and some postmasters (perhaps yours) will not pass them at all. I could buy a package of them of the smaller size if you chose. The leaves can be laid almost at will.

In regard to the petioles — your main difficulty, — the width of the base of the leaves, besides the ft. being almost white pruinated (my supposing it could be G. superonia. I found it in several localities but never but a single spec., and that ~~with~~ a separate form white ones, that was blue.

I shall search Dr. Gray's collections to find

intermediate specimens in order to prove it to be a var.

If you have made no arrangements with regard to procuring Juncus Greenii &c., I would recommend you to write to Wm Boott, Esq. of Boston, brother of the curiosgrapher and a good botanist, who I doubt not would collect one or more of them for you with pleasure. Indeed I think I understood him to intimate as much in regard to one of the species. The above address is sufficient.

Truly,
Yours &c.
J. W. Robbins

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Rec'd Oct 1st
Rec'd Oct 7

Uxbridge, 20th Sept., 1860.

Dr. Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you in July, giving the names of the Junci which I had previously forwarded. I was glad to find there was even a single one (J. alpinus of Vermont) which you had not seen from so far eastward. It was from a limestone soil of which we have but little in N. England. I do not see under what head Dcne. Gray included this plant. He must have seen it, as I furnished it to Mr. Tuckerman in 1859. By ~~the~~ J. dichotomus I did intend J. Canadensis, as you suspected. I am glad to learn this is the true A. pilocarpus.

The third harvest of A. nidularius was made the 25th Aug. I can now furnish 100 specimens, and more if you wish, with the leaves, flowers and fruit and shape

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you will find them in good condition.
There is this however about the fruiting
specimens that I have to regret. Wishing
to have the capsules fully grown I found
I had delayed a little too long, for, in some
specimens, the seed was even the valves
fell out into the papers in drying. This is
perhaps of less consequence as the flowering
specimens were intentionally made in
a rather advanced state. As the seeds
are interesting, more particularly since
your account of them, I proposed to affix
a few to each label as in the one enclosed.
It would occupy but a short time to attach
them to a hundred labels and I would
do so with pleasure in order to supply
the deficiency of a portion of the spe-
cimens, if you should approve of the
suggestion. The labels otherwise prin-
ted would be easily sent by mail and
returned with the seeds attached under
the printed word "Senna".

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We have recently had a tedious case of sickness, in the family with which I have been long domiciliated, which terminated fatally and my botanical studies and correspondence were for some time suspended: but I am now ready to put up your plants. I hope too, by this time, you are much relieved from the extra labor and anxiety which the pressure of the season must have imposed upon you. I have now but little paper remaining but newspapers, but will try to procure at Providence tomorrow such as will be suitable for putting up the specimens and I shall then be soon able to have the package in readiness. I will take it to Prof. Gray, as you propose, or my self will, two or three weeks hence, or dispatch it earlier if you wish to have it as soon as possible.

I have not yet made a thorough examination of the mode of development of the

radical leaves &c. I intend to do this late in the season or early in the spring as you suggest, and will send, besides, living roots if you should desire them.

I die, however, fine some of the fine leaves just starting at the time of the dispatching of the fruit, Aug. 25th.

I am now nearly satisfied that there is no other Sophia in this vicinity than S. adonta, and I have not traveled abroad this season. I would be glad some time to send you specimens from other parts of S. England.

Yours cordially,

J. W. Robbins.

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Rec'd Jan 2nd 1867
Ans Jan 8

Lindridge, 27th Dec., 1866.

Dear Engelmann

Since writing my last letter to you I have received a package of Potamogetons from Prof. Suckerman and my friend me from St Louis which interests me very much. There are two specimens without Lr. having the label printed throughout, "Potamogetons Etangs. St. Louis, Missouri. Dr Riehl." It would appear from the French terms, Etangs, that it may have been a German collector using the French language. The plant can be no other than the truly beautiful P. pectinatus of Suckerman which aside from its thickly tufted fr. is distinguishable almost alone by its large and remarkably acuminate leaves. It has moreover its submersed leaves more broadly lanceolate than common with a long point. They are mariform rather small & thinly

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Rec Sept 20
Ans Sept 22

Uabridge, 16th Sept., 1867.

Dr. Engelmann,

My Dear Sir,

Your very welcome letter came to hand a short time since and was rendered particularly valuable by its enclosures. I have been absent a part of the time since and am now busy in jinparing to lay my Cuban collections before Mr. Chas Wright, who I suppose will at once recognise most of the forms. The joint examination of them will occupy some days and may require more than one journey to Cambg. I write them not only to apologise for past seemingly culpable neglect but to ask for a delay of not more than two weeks to enable me to look up what may possibly be the specimens which

you desire and to find also what I think was a minute Cuban species of Wolffia We shall be sure to come upon it in our proposed revision of those plants.

That I have seemed wilfully to neglect not only you but all of my most valued correspondents to whom I owe much is to be ascribed to my illness since last spring, which seemed to be at one to be assuming a very serious aspect and made it necessary (at least I conceived it most prudent) to avoid everything like bodily or mintal labor as well as confinement. I have now become so far improved as to have commenced very recently a little labor in the office and the next thing after my engagement with Mr. Wright will be to attend to my correspondents.

My plant I think did stick somewhat to the paper & was certainly not glued and I many years ago went for and gave the

living plant to Mr. Gray. assuring him that I thot it must be a new species of Limna. I found it in 1829 & have since had it growing & sending out its gemma for weeks under my own eyi, but, to my disappointment never flowering.

I would like to know how you "cook" & prepare your dried specimens for examination.

Your specy of L. pusilla I had applied in vain to Dr. Torrey for and I value them much. But I must close or lose the mail.

Yours most cordially

J. M. Robbins.

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Dr J. W. Robbins

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